

# Fisheries Division Releases Management Updates for Waters in Southwest Michigan (2010)

The Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit is announcing fishery management actions and activities for the 2010-2011 angling season. These actions and activities include fish stocking, habitat rehabilitation projects, creel census, and fish community surveys.

“These management updates are provided as a means to notify anglers and the public of changes in management and to make lake and stream property owners aware of our survey activities”, said Jay Wesley, Southern Lake Michigan Unit Manager, Plainwell. “We also value public input regarding our management actions and encourage anglers to report on current management activities.”

For more information, contact Jay Wesley at 269-685-6851 or at the Plainwell Operation Service Center, Plainwell, MI 49080.

The Southern Lake Michigan Management Unit covers the Grand, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Galien river watersheds and all the lakes and streams within that area. Each year, fisheries biologists and technicians evaluate management options on various water bodies in order to achieve increased fishery benefits. Fish stocking actions are reviewed at least every six years based on fish community or creel surveys. Counties with specific management actions and waters that are planned for surveys in 2010 are listed below. Anglers are asked to provide feedback on specific management options.

## Allegan County

The **Kalamazoo River** was sampled in April to determine the presence of spawning lake sturgeon as part of a long-term population rehabilitation effort. Along with the population assessments, spawning and juvenile lake sturgeon habitat projects are being planned. Fish community surveys are scheduled for **Kalamazoo Lake**, **Duck Lake**, and **Silver Creek** (Tributary to the Rabbit River).

## Barry County

Brown trout will continue to be stocked in **Cedar Creek** due to insufficient natural reproduction to sustain the fishery. **Gun Lake** walleye stocking will resume once disinfection techniques and other procedures are approved for preventing the spread of VHSV. The Nashville Dam was removed on the **Thornapple River** last fall and work will continue to restore the site this summer. A partnership with Barry Conservation District will remove a dam on **Highbanks Creek** and restore bank stability on **Quaker Brook**. A largemouth bass recruitment evaluation will be conducted on **Gun Lake**.

## Berrien County

**Mill Creek** will continue to be stocked with brown trout; the Hill and North Branch Road sites were discontinued due to lack of public access. The remains of an old dam will be removed from **Mill Creek** upstream of Red Arrow Highway. **Blue Creek** brown trout stocking was discontinued due to low fishing pressure and lack of public access. Stocking of brown trout in **Pipestone Creek** was also discontinued due to adequate natural reproduction to sustain the fishery. Walleye stocking will continue in the **Galien** and **St. Joseph** rivers. The port of **New Buffalo** will receive its annual stocking of coho, brown trout, steelhead, and lake trout. A creel survey will be conducted throughout the summer and fall at the **Port of St. Joseph/Benton Harbor** and on the **St. Joseph River** from Berrien Springs to Benton Harbor. Several tributaries in the **Galien River** will be surveyed as part of the Galien River Assessment and Management Plan.

## Calhoun County

A fisheries survey will be conducted on the **Kalamazoo River** upstream of Battle Creek as part of a long-term fixed sampling program. The DNRE will be partnering with the Kalamazoo Chapter of Trout Unlimited on various stream improvement projects throughout the county.

#### Cass County

**Pokagon Creek** will be surveyed as part of a long-term fixed sampling program. A survey will be conducted on the **Dowagiac River** at Dodd Park to evaluate habitat changes associated with the meander restoration. **Dowagiac Creek** habitat will be improved through a partnership project with St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers.

#### Clinton County

**Looking Glass River** will be surveyed as part of a long-term fixed sampling program.

#### Eaton County

**Grand River** fish community will be surveyed. Channel restoration and dam removal evaluations will occur on Butternut Creek and Battle Creek River near Charlotte. An access site on the **Thornapple River** at Mason Road, just upstream of Nashville, was purchased with Natural Resource Trust Fund monies. This site will be managed by the Eaton Conservation District to provide bank fishing, canoe launching, and parking and will also support various educational programs.

#### Ionia County

**Sebewa Creek** will be stocked with brown trout at Eaton, Musgrove, and Sebewa Creek roads. Some property owners are more open to allow access for fishing, and these sites are just upstream of the Portland State Game Area. Brown trout stocking will also continue in **Prairie Creek**. The fish community in **Woodard Lake** will be evaluated. MDNRE is working with the Village of Lyons and the Ionia Conservation District to secure funds to remove Lyons Dam on the **Grand River**.

#### Jackson County

Rainbow trout stocking will continue in **Farwell** and **Swains lakes**.

#### Kalamazoo County

**Spring Brook** will be surveyed as part of a long-term fixed sampling program. A largemouth and smallmouth bass recruitment study is planned for **Gull Lake**, and a general fish community survey will be conducted on **Indian Lake**. Brown trout will be stocked in **Portage Creek**, and walleye will be stocked in the **Kalamazoo River** at 35<sup>th</sup> Street once disinfection techniques and other procedures are approved for preventing the spread of VHSv.

#### Kent County

**Lime Lake** will continue to be stocked with rainbow trout. Brown and rainbow trout will also be stocked in the **Rogue River**. **Wabasis Lake** is planned for a fish community survey, and the **Grand River** will be sampled to evaluate the lake sturgeon population. Anglers should be aware that the state threatened river redbhorse use the lower **Flat River** for spawning and that it is illegal to harvest or possess this species.

#### Ottawa County

**Crockery Creek** will continue to be stocked with brown trout. A creel survey will be conducted at the **Port of Grand Haven**.

St. Joseph County

**Cedar Lake** will continue to be stocked with walleye. The **Prairie River Lake** fish community will be surveyed as well as Sturgis Impoundment on the **St. Joseph River**.

Van Buren County

A sediment trap on **Campbell Creek** has been abandoned and the access road and work pad will be removed to restore the riparian wetland habitat. A trout population estimate will also be conducted on **Campbell Creek**. A sediment trap on **Brush Creek** has been abandoned, and the work pad will be removed to restore the floodplain habitat. Muskellunge stocking in **Round Lake** and rainbow trout stocking in **Shafer Lake** will be evaluated.